Purchase of Ground Handling Equipments by Air India

6383. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been alleged that brand new ground handling equipments procured a few months ago exclusively for the Air India flights are lying idle at Thiruvananthapuram airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount involved therein;

(c) whether the Air India has also purchased fresh equipments from the open market for the same purpose; and

(d) if so, the estimated cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) At Thiruvananthapuram airport, Indian Airlines has not positioned any ground handling equipment exclusively for handling of Air India flights as alleged.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Debts against Vayudoot

6384. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the debts owed by the Vayudoot to the Air India and the Indian Airlines have been written off; and

(b) if so, the total amount written off?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Power Grid

6385. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken to improve the functioning and efficiency of regional and national power grids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): The regional grids comprise of load despatch and communication facilities at State level and regional level. The facilities at State level are operated by respective States and at regional level are operated by Central Electricity Authority. The Government is taking steps to augment these facilities at Load Despatch Centres and to improve communication facilities. In addition, steps are also being taken to improve the grides management technique which is an on-going process. Schemes to augment the above facilities at the Load Despatch Centres, both at the Regional and State levels, have been drawn up for the Northern, Eastern, Southern and North-Eastern region. While the scheme for the Northern region is under advance stage of implementation, the schemes for Eastern, Southern and North-Eastern regions are in various stages of processing. The National Power Grid is in the process of development with the continued augmentation of extra High Voltage lines in the Central Sector and creation/strengthening of the Inter-State and Inter-Regional transmission links, and the load despatch facilities.